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individual state, while still retaining its distinctive local character, sheds new light upon many phases of national progress which have not as yet been fully apprehended.

Throughout the book, and especially in the admirable first chapter, the author manifests that true appreciation of frontier complexities which can only be attained through the laborious process of absorbing and digesting enormous masses of intricate and minute detail. The one serious defect in the make-up of the book is the lack of a satisfactory map showing roads, trails, rivers, and towns, upon which the reader might trace schemes of internal improvements in which the state was interested. An unfortunate misprint on the population map of 1840 reverses the legend, making the map read as if the most densely settled area were that having the lowest percentage of population. A welcome addition in forthcoming volumes would be an appendix showing the representation of the state in Congress and the term of office of its governors.

MARTHA L. EDWARDS.

*Federal Military Pensions in the United States.* By WILLIAM H. GLASSON, Professor of Political Economy and Social Science in Trinity College, N. C. Edited by DAVID KINLEY, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Illinois. [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Economics and History.] (New York: Oxford University Press. 1918. Pp. xii, 305. \$2.50.)

THE survey here presented of this intricate subject justifies the editor's characterization; it is "thorough, full and impartial".

The author sums up the subject matter of his research as the origin of our federal pension system, "its development, its application to our several wars, its administration, and its political, economic, and moral relations and effects". He has succeeded in producing a book which will interest and inform the general reader and at the same time command the confidence of the expert critic, who will find here ample evidence of candor and of thorough research, while copious notes and a bibliography afford guidance for more detailed study.

Almost exactly one-third of the book is given to a study of English and Colonial Origins and Revolutionary Pensions. This seems a disproportionate allotment until the reader discovers that the history of these beginnings shows in miniature most of the conditions which surrounded the passage and administration of later pension laws. Had the obvious teaching of this experience not been ignored, our Civil War pension legislation might have been kept more sane.

Substantially one-half of the book is devoted to a study of Civil War pensions. "Active or tacit support of the pension system has been based partly on a sentiment of gratitude, partly on self-interest, partly on indif-

ference to burdens that were unfelt" (p. 265). These three influences are carefully studied. American citizens find here cause for pride in the generous provision which the nation has ever been disposed to make for those who have risked life or limb in its defense. But the cupidity of claim agents, the broadening trail of fraud and corruption, the sully-ing of the ideals of the Grand Army of the Republic and the debauching of politics through attempts to capture or to deliver the "soldier vote"—these are phases of the record that shame us. The history of the Arrears Act of 1879 and of the Disability Pension Act of 1890 are especially impressive. That lavish pension legislation has been in large measure due to "indifference to burdens that were unfelt" is proved by abundant citations. In 1816, in 1830, and in 1836 the Treasury surplus was frankly recognized as the occasion for the new proposals; and at each of these times, as well as later, it was alleged that there was an intimate connection between the proposed increase in pension expenditures and the maintenance of a protective policy.

The abundant statistical material is effectively presented; there are some twenty tables showing the expenditures under each of the pension acts. A striking map (p. 268) shows the per capita disbursements by states in 1910.

The appendix contains a brief discussion of the war insurance law of October 6, 1917, and an outline of the provisions and schedules. This immensely important experiment in compensation and insurance marks a new era in the making of national provision for wounded and disabled soldiers and sailors, and for the dependent relatives of those who lose their lives. A reading of the record of the passing and the administration of our federal pension laws raises the query whether this law has been framed upon such just and generous lines that forty years after the end of this war a combination of fee-seeking claim agents and politicians will not again succeed in manipulating the "soldier vote" to their own enrichment and to the disorganization and corruption of American politics.

*Fighting the Spoilsmen: Reminiscences of the Civil Service Reform Movement.* By WILLIAM DUDLEY FOULKE. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1919. Pp. vi, 348. \$2.00.)

THIS is a very timely and readable book by one who thoroughly knows his subject.

There never was a time in American history when the evils of incompetent and inefficient administration of public affairs were more apparent and the need of an honest and capable personnel in our governmental service more urgent and imperative than the present. With the great problems of reconstruction facing the country and the natural opposition of the professional politician to the merit system becoming more open and pronounced with the period of transition from war to